

CHRISTIAN RELIGION

NOT A SYSTEM FOR IMPROVEMENT—JAPS TO STUDY RELIGION TO SEE HOW MUCH IT ENTERS INTO DAILY LIFE.

By Harriet M. Cross.

The following clipping is from the Chicago Chronicle and is a true estimate of the injustice of our system of religion:

Seattle, Wash., March 24.—A party of wealthy Japanese have arrived to visit the principal centers of the United States, inspect rolling-mills and factories of all kinds, and look into the condition of the poor, examine the practical working of the laws and ascertain if possible whether religious enters to any appreciable extent into the actual daily life of the people.

One of the party, a graduate of a university, said that, after most careful examination, absolutely unprejudiced and free from preconceptions, the Japanese had unanimously and unhesitatingly rejected the religion of the Europeans as something which they did not want and did not need.

Had these representatives of the great Buddhist religion seen in inquiry to the Blue Grass State it might have saved the time and expense of personal investigation but now that they have heard and seen and experienced some of the fearful consequences of Christian teaching they are better satisfied than if a report had been given by others.

Imagine the surprise of these Pagans who had heard only glowing reports of the religion of the monks and lovely Jesus, the missionaries have declared regenerates men, fosters brotherhood and promotes justice. Imagine their surprise when landing from the floating palace of the shipping trust to find swarming the wharves and streets the pinched and poverty-stricken people—not pious representatives of poverty—but pious as a general term, but the seal of starvation stamped upon many faces. Imagine the indignation being justified by staggering leering and profane pedestrians reeking with the fumes of liquor. Imagine, if you can, their consternation when informed that there are in the United States 600,000 outcast women and several millions of illegitimate children. That in this great country which produces enough to supply the world with comforts there are hundreds of thousands of men without work and without homes. That in the industrial field there are millions of child laborers whose minds are dwarfed and bodies maimed. That women toil in filthy sweatshops for the miserable pittance which barely preserves life. That domestic felicity is a thing almost unknown and family tragedies of a more day are chronic. That lynchings and burnings at the stake are so frequent as to cause little thought or comment. That public officials shamelessly barter their influence and their honor. That our penitentiaries and jails are overflowing with criminals reared under Christian teaching. That our almshouses and asylums are crowded with the helpless victims of cruelty and extortion. That the protected corporations demand military assistance to humiliate, crush and if need be kill the producer of wealth. That the immense and valuable church properties escape payment of just taxation. That among God's representatives—the priesthood—is found the highest per cent of criminality. That the dictatorial oppressors of the weak sit highest in the sanctuary. That militarism and imperialism are making men mad with the fever for show and conquest. That human life is regarded only as a commodity to be relinquished at the behest of priest or politician. That church work is carried on by women who have no voice in counsels ecclesiastical and who are excluded from the future heavenly kingdom. That the wealth of the churches of Christendom is so great it cannot be computed while destitution, degradation and despair thrive in the courts ecclesiastical and who are excluded from the future heavenly kingdom. That the wealth of the churches of Christendom is so great it cannot be computed while destitution, degradation and despair thrive in the courts ecclesiastical and who are excluded from the future heavenly kingdom.

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this much vaunted Christian civilization of America.

Some time ago a near head account appeared of how narrowly China escaped being Christianized. It told of how after hearing of the fame of Jesus and a delegation of colonialists were sent Westward to study the system. They traveled to the coast of Ceylon where Buddhism is found in its native purity, and supposing they had located the religion they sought, returned and taught the precepts of the Lord Buddha.

However, this story seems to have been fabricated by some enterprising missionary as Prof. Samuel Paul in "Religious Systems of the World" says: Buddhism was introduced into China 123 B. C. by Ho-Ku-Ping," hence it would be impossible for the colonialists to have heard of Jesus 123 years before his birth or 450 years before his church was established in Rome.

Perhaps, though the philosophers from old Cathay may have had visions and prophesied the coming of our Lord Jesus as the Bible prophets are said to have done. We often hear the expression, "If Christianity were not true it would not have persisted during the centuries," but, please remember that the Buddhist philosophy has persisted many centuries longer than Christianity and its adherents outnumber the Christians by ten of millions.

The fact that many of the vaunted English, French and German scholars repudiate Christianity should have warned these Japanese pilgrims that Buddhism is a better working proposition than Christianity. The great English student, Sir Edwin Arnold, who is just dead, spent his life in Oriental research and accepted the teachings of Buddha and wrote much in their favor.

Japan has made rapid strides in material progress during the past generation and has been blessed with favor by western civilization, but if she is so well headed or so judicious as to declare against the religion of Jesus Christ, she may as well renounce herself to disintegration for Christian nations will attack her like beak and talons, tear her into bits and devour its remnants with satisfaction. She would be warned by the fact of other nations.

I fear for the Pagans of this island flower kingdom. I tremble with an apprehension while I await the result of the religious strife in the East. Webster City, Iowa.

THE LOUISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH SQUABBLE.

The Louisville Baptist church, in Louisville, now conducting its services with police on guard to keep one faction from assaulting the other, as the Mohammedans, in Jerusalem, do to keep the Christian from fighting as to the bogus one of the two graves of Jesus.

The Courier-Journal's second long account of Leonard's preaching ends as follows:

Another Explanation. R. P. Brewer, another of the opposing element, denies that his bitter words against the Rev. Dr. Leonard were uttered because of Mr. Leonard's stand against saloons. "I do not want saloons any more than he does," said Mr. Brewer, "but I objected to the method he adopted to keep them away. I say his methods were not right. Mr. Leonard came to me and asked me to take a bucket and go to the saloon down there on Sunday and buy a bucket of beer, just so he could use me as a witness to prove that the saloon was violating the law. He told me I need not drink the beer, but could throw it away. He offered to give me the money with which to buy it. I told him that it was not right, and I refused to do it. That was all I did not like about him and the fact that he tried to prevent the issuing of license to the saloonkeeper."

Dr. Leonard and his adherents deny these charges in toto. Dr. Leonard says he had evidence to show that the saloon should not be allowed to run without resorting to such methods.

ONE OF THE CRIMES THAT MAKES SOCIALISTS AND ANARCHISTS.

aniel J. Bully, who recently bulled cotton to 18 cents a pound and made millions of dollars last week, and dropped \$3,000,000 of his gambling receipts, he had twice cornered cotton successfully, and not satisfied with his gain of millions, attempted to bull it again and lost out. But he has considerable left, as he had bought a million dollar residence, and had given his wife \$250,000. He announces that he will soon be on deck again.

What was the result of this man's gratification for gambling, and desperate ambition to grow rich. How did it affect others while this man was indulging his passion of greed?

First, it virtually caused a stagnation in the manufacturing of cotton. It threw out of employment 100,000

cotton operators in this country and 200,000 were forced to idleness in Lancashire, England. Men, women and children were made too hungry and no doubt some died from lack of necessities during the famine.

On one hand could be heard the roar and pandemonium of the New York stock exchange, on the other woman's wretched souls and famished infants cries.

A loss of \$7,000,000 is figured in wages to operators and all the suffering such a loss involves and more. That Daniel J. Bully might gamble in a necessity of life.

Still people wonder why there are Socialists and desperate Anarchists. It is foolish for the government to make laws to keep Anarchists out of the country, as long as it upholds and sanctions conditions which make them fight here—so long as it permits gamblers to cover the necessities of life, and thus renders homeless and hungry the producer of those necessities.

J. B. W.

PANIC STARTED IN CHURCH—FIGHT TO GAIN EXIT.

New Haven, Conn.—Twenty persons were injured, four seriously, in a panic which occurred during mass in St. Michael's Roman Catholic church this morning. The church was crowded to the doors, about 1,500 people constituting the congregation. In the midst of the celebration of mass some one raised the cry of fire because of the smell of gas from a broken fixture.

There was a general rush for the exits, and these having become congested the windows were attacked by those in the rear. All the windows were smashed and many were injured by the broken glass in efforts to wriggle through.

Cooler heads among the men attempted to restore confidence, but the people fought like mad to reach the outside.

Some one on the street sent in a fire alarm and the police and firemen who responded plunged into the struggling mass of humanity and dragged the injured who were helpless and in danger of being trampled to death from the mass of people.

After the building was emptied the police found several women lying on pews who had fainted at the first alarm. The furniture and fixtures were badly wrecked.

DEATH OF AN INFIDEL.

"When I am dead my wish is that my body shall be cremated. Then I will that my ashes shall be placed in an urn and taken back to Louisville, my birthplace and the home of my boyhood, and there scattered upon the waves of the beautiful Ohio river. When this is done, if the Angel Gabriel can collect my remains for the judgment, I will take off my hat to him and will be there at the last roll-call."

Mr. Strader was known as an infidel during his life and boasted in his belief that death meant total annihilation. He scoffed at the idea, it is said, of a hereafter, and his will is in keeping with that spirit.—Courier-Journal.

The above excerpts are from the Courier-Journal which gives a long and complimentary account of Mr. Strader and a picture of him.

WIFE BEATING PREACHER HAS SENTENCE HELD UP.

Brooklyn, March 25.—The Rev. Henry A. Dorr, of 205 Driggs avenue who was once assistant pastor of Calvary Baptist church in Manhattan, was convicted of wife beating in the Court of Special Sessions here this morning. Sentence was suspended. Justice Keaty, in dissenting from the decision of his colleagues, Justice Fleming and Farker, said that the Rev. Mr. Dorr ought to be made to pay a fine at least.

"I am sorry that the court has suspended sentence," said Justice Keaty, "in my opinion this case is not one for suspended sentence. Some punishment should have been inflicted. He should have been fined, at least."

It was brought out in the proceedings that an action for divorce had been begun in the Supreme Court by Mrs. Dorr. Presiding Justice Fleming thought that the decision of the Court of Special Sessions would be used in the coming action and declare in favor of suspending sentence for that reason.

"The action in the court will have no effect upon the divorce proceedings," said Justice Keaty. "The Supreme Court will immediately strike out any testimony as to what occurred here. The defendant, in my opinion, should be fined."

WHAT RUSSIANS DRINK.

Vodka is the popular Russian drink. It is to the Muscovite what firewater used to be to the aboriginal Indian. It provides him with courage when all else fails, and it will fight to the death for it. There are eight vodka distillers in the new town of Harbin, the center of Russia industrial and commercial development in Manchuria, and the inhabitants drink vast quantities of the product. Forty-six thousand men are in Harbin. At least 40,000 drink vodka. The daily consumption is 3,000 gallons of about three-fifths of a pint each. That would make for every man about five good drinks—nothing at all but for the fact that vodka is about 145 proof, that is, in each 100 gallons there are seventy-two and one-half gallons of alcohol. Vodka is as stronger as schivovitch, five drinks of vodka would make a man silly. For comparison, most of the American whisky sold over the bar is from ninety to ninety-three proof.

SUDDEN END OF REV. J. MR. FISHER'S PASTORATE.

Deacon Calls Him Down and Congregation Shuts Him Out of the Pulpit.

Cleveland, O., March 27.—The pastorate of the Rev. J. Alford Fisher, of the Franklin Avenue Congregational church, was terminated today in a sensational manner. Mr. Fisher has, since coming to the church last November, been charged with too liberal views in his pulpit utterances, and he had been asked to resign. His contract, however, extends for three months longer. During the morning services Mr. Fisher spoke of the manner in which many people regard the Bible, declaring that it had been made "a fetish." Thereupon Deacon Thomas Henderson arose in his seat and protested that Mr. Fisher came to the church under false pretenses, for he had accepted the pastorate "as a minister of the Gospel." The congregation then took sides with and against the minister, and a number of persons moved toward the pulpit which Mr. Fisher had meanwhile vacated and prevented him from entering it again during the morning service.

Mr. Fisher will leave Cleveland Thursday. He came to Cleveland from the church of the late Dr. Scudder of Brooklyn, N. Y., and is widely known.

HOLY WEEK.

The Mayor of Jeffersonville, Ind., Forbids Public Balls Until After Easter.

Louisville, Ky., March 28.—By order of the Mayor, Holy Week will be observed in Jeffersonville alike by all classes, in that no public balls will be permitted. Mayor Schwanninger says that society can go free and do the will after Easter, but on the preceding seven days Lent must be respected.

The order has been issued and will be enforced. All public entertainments of a social nature which had been planned for this week have been postponed, and those who do not believe in the observance of Lent and Holy Week have to refrain from merry-making for seven days, whether it is their pleasure or not.

AT THE PEN.

ZANEVILLE GIRL DROPPED HER FINE CLOTHES FOR THE GINGHAM GARB.

COLUMBUS, O., March 26.—(Sp.) There came to the penitentiary today from Zaneville a beautiful 19-year-old girl, who is sentenced to serve two years for forgery. She is Grace Ethell who has been prominent in religious work at Zaneville. Few doubt that she is a genuine kleptomaniac. Her crime was forging the name of a cousin to a \$200 check. The forgery was committed by the young woman as means of raising money with which to entertain some religious workers in Zaneville. She is a mild blonde and was handsomely dressed. At the prison she put on the gingham garb of female convicts, and Warden Hershey shipped her fine clothes back to her Zaneville home.

PLOT TO ASSASSINATE POPE.

London, March 28.—The London Daily Chronicle asserts that a plot against the life of Pope Pius X. has been discovered. The correspondent states that in consequence the Vatican and its cardinals are closely guarded by a selected force of Italian police and soldiers. The Chronicle is recognized as the chief Roman Catholic organ of Great Britain and it would hardly publish a report of this character unless it felt there was excellent foundation for it.

SENTENCE

On Nashville Preacher Who Suborned Testimony is Affirmed.

Nashville, Tenn., March 26.—The sentence imposed upon Rev. B. A. Cherry was today affirmed by the Supreme Court. Rev. Cherry was convicted on the charge of subordination of perjury in procuring false affidavits to support his claim for indemnity

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FARMING IN THE SOUTH. The Passenger Department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company is issuing monthly circulars concerning fruit growing, vegetable gardening, stock raising, dairying, etc., in the States of Kentucky, West Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Every Farmer, or Homeseeker, who will forward his name and address to the undersigned, will be mailed free, Circulars Nos. 1 to 11 inclusive, and others as they are published from month to month.

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CONSCIENCE STRICKEN AFTER MANY YEARS.

(From Marion (Ohio) Press). A well known lady of this place received a few days ago a letter from an old neighbor, who now lives in California, containing the writer of the letter had once stolen a chicken, and also a box of snuff from this lady and asking forgiveness.

She stated she had been attending one of Sam Jones' meetings, and that she was going to send her sons. She wanted to know the worth of the articles stolen, and said she would make immediate restoration.

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against a fire insurance company and his punishment was fixed at three years.

William Littleell, member of the 11th coast artillery company, was arrested last night at Ft. Adams, charged with complicity in the double killing at Mt. Victory church in Pulaski county, Ky., last summer.

The Rev. George O. Barnes, Irvine, Ky., March 28.—The Rev. George O. Barnes, the noted evangelist of Eastern Kentucky, and of Pink Cottage fame, is in a series of meetings here. Besell county is the sixty-first county he has preached in in this tour and it is his purpose to preach in each county of the State.

Mrs. Matthew T. Scott of Lexington purchased a five Women's Club and a prominent church worker, committed suicide this last week by shooting herself. She was the daughter of Squire Bassett, President of the Fayette National Bank and widow of Dr. Matthew T. Scott, who died a few years ago.